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Newsletter

Number 18

5 July 2013



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

- .. To those parents who have supported their children during the build-up to Science Fair.
 - .. To those parents who took time out to discuss the CONSIDERATION virtue with their children .. and especially to those who shared shining examples with us.
 - .. To those parents who have booked interview times for next week .. please note that teachers are highly available by appointment if these days did not suit.
 - .. To the parents who transported and supervised the year 6 badminton players
 - .. To Ivy Oosthuizen for being such a huge help in room 9 in preparation for science fair
 - .. To those parents who have assisted in any way whatsoever during this very busy term.
- And from Dylan and Lisa Jones**
- .. A huge thank you to Don (Cates), Mika and Misha for donating six x 5 laps around Hampton Downs in their Radical SR8 LM Sports car for the school raffle. This was an incredible experience and a massive adrenalin rush was had by all. Thank you for your kindness in providing this once in a life time experience. We loved it! Dylan and Lisa Jones

People of the Week

- .. Our Interschool Cross Country teams .. we have had very positive third party feedback on your conduct, performance and sportsmanship on this day. Well done!
- .. Our year 7 and 8 students for their hard work in the build-up to science fair. You can feel very proud of the standard of your exhibits and of your efforts over recent weeks.
- .. Asher who won Player of the Day for JB1 Kamo White.
- .. Ethan who won Player of the Day last week in a stunning win against the Kamo Blacks team.. Well done Ethan!
- .. Tegan who won player of the day for her Ruatangata hockey team B Grade Mixed.
- .. Mikaylah who recently took the initiative (without prompting) to get extra help with some tricky maths questions .. a smart thing to do!
- .. Mr D who scored a sliding goal in hockey recently.

And our consideration stars ..

- .. Ethan who recently helped his dad and granddad to cull possums at his granddad's farm .. granddad was most impressed Ethan with the way you stuck at the job.
- .. Ethan (again) who coped incredibly well when confusion at the recent Interschool Cross Country resulted him being relegated to a much lower ranking than he had earned. These things do happen Ethan and you were a great sport about this. Well done!

Out of Zone Enrolments

The school is already receiving out of zone enquiries. The board remains committed to keeping our roll below 300 and so out of zone places will be strictly limited in 2014. **If you are an out of zone family with a child turning 5 next year can you please advise Helen NEXT WEEK.** This is NOT a guarantee of placement but we do try hard to reserve places for siblings of current out of zone students. Last year some families did not respond to this request and, consequently, we had the difficult task of advising them that we were unable to accept their child for the following year.

Term Calendar

8 / 9 July	Parent / teacher interviews
12 July	Final day of term 2
29 July	First day of term 3
31 July	International Schools English Exam
7 August	School photos
13 August	International Schools Mathematics Exam

Parent / Teacher Interviews - 8 and 9 July

If you have not received your appointment advice notice please contact the school office.

Parents are reminded to bring their child's portfolio with them to interviews, to jot down any questions beforehand, to be on time please and to move on the bell.

School Science Fair Prize Giving

Our Science Fair exhibits will be on display in the school hall on the evenings of 8 and 9 July in the hope that you will **drop by to take a look on your way to and from interviews.** Children receiving prizes will be advised beforehand and **are asked to be in attendance at the prize giving starting 6:30 PM on Tuesday 9 July if possible please.** *Thank you to Heatpump professionals who are sponsors of this year's school fair.*

Kamo High School

Parents of year 7 and 8 children are invited to meet the K.H.S. principal and relevant senior managers at a meeting to be held here at school on **Tuesday 9 July starting 7:00 PM in the staffroom.** This meeting will provide an opportunity to hear about some of the things on offer at Kamo High School, to hear about the schools new direction, and to ask questions. This immediately follows our Science Fair Prize Giving and so we hope that some of you can stay over.

Early Finish - 8 and 9 July

Please note that school will finish at **2:30 PM** on both interview days (8 and 9 July) to allow teachers time to prepare for interviews. Please note that buses could be running approximately 30-40 minutes earlier on these days **depending on loadings** and so please expect children earlier than usual at drop off points. Parents who pick their children up from school are asked to do so please at the earlier time of 2:30 PM. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Learner Portfolios

Please read over these **with your child** and **commend them for areas of improvement** and note down any matters you would like to discuss at interviews. Test data is also useful (to be shared at interviews) but provides a narrow (only covers what is in the test) snapshot (one point in time) and so portfolios help create a much more comprehensive picture of each child's achievement.

School Photos - 7 August

Photo order forms will be issued next week. Although we are happy to receive these in the new term it is certainly helpful if as many orders as possible could be returned next week. Any questions to Helen please.

Dressing for Winter

We have spent a little time recently on very cold days asking children to put on extra clothing. Some children may need a wee reminder in the mornings to ensure they have jerseys, jackets etc .. handy if needed... shoes also a good idea (We know bare feet is a Northland thing) Many thanks.

Interschool Cross Country

The following children who did stunningly well at the Whangarei Interschool Cross Country Event against a large (up to 150 entrants per age group) and highly competitive field.

8yr Girls	Amy	14	Jynaia	55
8yr Boys	Thomas	7	Bradley	43
9yr Girls	Brooke	14	Emma	43
9yr Boys	Charlie	45	Joseph	49
10yr Girls	Sarah	13	Aimee	33
10yr Boys	Campbell	49	Olly	52
11yr Girls	Michelle	14	Grace	29
11yr Boys	Brendan	7	Angus	9
12yr Girls	Ruby	22		
12yr Boys	Jared	11	Andrew	13

Congratulations to Thomas Donnelly, Brendan Richardson and Angus Darroch who have qualified to compete at the Northland Champs next term.

Matarau School Hockey

Well Done to the following Player of the Day



Year 3 - Caitlin

Matarau Intermediate Netball

Well Done to the Player of the Day Saturday 25 May :



Georgia

After School Labs

Please note that labs will not run in the final week of term (week beginning 8 July) due to parent interviews.

Labs for term 3

We are pleased to advise that After School Labs will continue into term 3. In term 3 two labs will run as follows... concurrently on Mondays and Thursdays.

1. SRA Reading Laboratories ... focussed principally on developing reading comprehension and word study skills.
2. Maths laboratories ... focussed principally on developing number system understandings and competence with basic number operations.

Thank you to those parents who have requested they consider their children for these labs (**Happy to field further requests from parents early next week**). **Where your child's placement is recommended by their teacher we request that you return your form by Wednesday next week please so that we can determine how many further slots are available. This is a rare opportunity to get extra tuition at zero cost to families of our school.**

20 Hour Famine

Unfortunately the deadline for return of all sponsor money (and sponsor booklets) was 24 June. A small number of children have not returned these despite reminders .. can you please check at home and ensure that any outstanding money and booklets come back to school on Monday.

International Schools English and Maths Exams

Practice papers are now available at the office for both exams. Please ensure children have a designated time and place to sit these papers ... minimum one per week please. We have been chasing up children who seem not to have exchanged papers in a while but we need the help of parents please to ensure they sit these papers at home. Next week we will hand out anywhere from 2 to 4 practice papers for the holiday period as these exams fall pretty early in the new term.

Safer Journeys .. staying safe near roads and railways

Over coming weeks we will be sharing various facets of road safety with children. We feel the best way to do this is ..

.. a little at a time .. with revision of earlier points as the programme unfolds

.. with the same material being discussed by parents at home.

So .. please discuss the following with your children next week (we will do the same at school). It is also highly important to do the practice exercises with them



THIS WEEK .. WALKING ON RURAL ROADS .. discuss ..

1. Walk facing oncoming traffic.
2. Keep as far off the road as possible.
3. Walk in single file.
4. Listen very carefully for the sound of approaching vehicles.
5. If a vehicle is coming stop, and stay back from the roadside until it has passed.
6. If you can't see the road ahead be extra careful

And we would add .. WEAR YOUR HIGH VISIBILITY VEST

You may need to personalise these guidelines to your child's circumstance. A guide book was sent home for parents last week (check your child's schoolbag). Please put this in a safe place and use as we tackle the content sub-topic at a time. THANKS!

Hockey Fees / Tech fees

Please get these fees to Helen in the office as soon as possible so we can pay the respective organisations on your behalf.

Red Socks Day

As part of Leadership week in Week 10, the school council have decided to support Red Socks Day. This is a day that raises money for the Sir Peter Blake Charitable Trust. We are asking that all students come to school dressed in red looking as plain or wacky as they want and bring along a gold coin donation for the trust. A Westpac representative will be coming to our end of term assembly to accept the donation and see all the red children. Red Socks day is on the last day of term, 12th July. Thanks for your support. School Council.

Lost Property

We will do our best to reunite items with owners but please take some time over the next week to look through the mountain of lost property between rooms 10 and 11. Items unclaimed by term's end will be donated to charities.

Playday at Hampton Downs - An account of the day



We had the maximum permissible number of cars and bikes attending the "Playday at Hampton Downs" last Sunday June 30th which proved to be a very well organized event. Cars were split into 2 groups of Fast and slightly less fast. The same applied to the bikes.

The Fast cars included many exotics (Porsche, Ferrari, Nissan GTRs etc) and a number of pure race cars.

Following a night at the rather chilly Hampton Downs apartments, all the prize winners from the Race Car raffle survived the day and emerged from the car "Buzzing" having cruised past many of the aforementioned exotics during the course of their time on track. The day started cold and

wet but then the sun emerged, the track dried and it was time to put the racing slick tyres on the car. With these up to temperature nothing could keep up with the "Radical" even with the extra weight of a passenger. If we do this again next year, make sure you talk to some of the winners to get their impression of the experience. You may need a few more books of tickets once the word gets out!!!

Best regards, Don Cates. ***Thank you again Don for making this possible.***

National Standards .. our position

National Standards will continue to be controversial with both sides having points of view worth listening to. In the midst of this debate (and there is much more to come) we need to ensure that the standards are used in ways which improve learning and teaching in our school ... or at the very least that the down-sides are mitigated to the greatest extent possible. The National Standards and Data Progress Reports, to be shared at interviews next week, are part of our attempt to objectivize the standards. These reports show your child's performance in a number of core assessment areas, and attempts to show how these align with the standards themselves. Thus they give a broad evidential basis for saying whether your child is "above", "at" or "below" the standard. In the absence of clarity from the Ministry of Education we have done the very best we can to provide you with statements which are accurate.

Having said this please be aware ...

... that deviations in judgements are highly possible year to year as the Ministry re-interprets the standards and as our systems adjust and improve (some children who were "at standard" last year may be "below standard" now .. this does NOT necessarily mean they have "gone backwards"). This is unfortunate but it is not a problem of our making.

.. that some assessment areas will NOT be marked on the National Standards and Data ... sheet because further work is being done to align these assessments to the standards. When we have clarity, these (or alternative assessments) will be included.

.. that the standards (above, at, below) do NOT mean above, at or below average. In some areas the standards are aspirational and the designers have (for reasons that are not always clear) determined that the majority of children nationwide do not meet this standard.

.. that because there is no mechanism for consistency of judgement across schools, comparisons school to school (and national tables which aim to do this) are not meaningful.

Our goal is to provide you with information that is both accurate and useful and National Standards judgements which are as reliable as possible. We believe we have achieved this, and that you will leave interviews well informed on your child's progress and attainment. Having said this, please remember this is a work in progress and that **data is only one part of the achievement picture** .. in many cases your child's teacher will know greatly more than any assessment(s) can show and so please trust their judgement and listen to them as they join the dots and paint a wider picture.

Finally .. best wishes for the holidays. Thanks for your support this term .. see you again in the new term.

And again ... please get behind our road safety initiative and discuss the relevant weekly material with your child(ren). **This week around two thirds of children said they had been discussing these at home with their parents. Well done parents.**

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them

Sumpter
Baughen
Chartered Accountants

COMMUNITY NOTICES

10 + Weaned Autumn Calves - fully vaccinated & drenched, would suit lifestyle blocks - \$500 each (free delivery within Whangarei District). Please phone Sharon 027 631 9361.

ASB Holiday Fun Football is an action-packed holiday programme for kids aged 7-11, 22 July - 26 July, Tikipunga Sports Park. For more info contact Christina Taylor in our Whangarei office on (09) 437 7294 or www.nff.org.nz.

Hurupaki School Holiday Programme, Monday 15th July to Friday 26 July, Hurupaki School Hall, Kamo, 8.00am to 5.30pm. Fun, daily activities along with 3 outside visits have been organised. The programme is OSCAR accredited, WINZ assistance available - conditions apply. Discounts for two or more children from the one family. For further information go to www.schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz, or contact Christin on 0274-821331 or info@schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz

Netball holiday programme, held at Kamo High School 16th and 17th July 9-3, 5-12yr olds. \$30 a day. For more information is attached or you can contact the sports office at KHS.

Hockey School Holiday Programme - 9.00am -12.00 noon daily Mon 15th July -Thur 18th July, Whangarei ITM Hockey Centre, Park Ave, Kensington, Yrs 3-8, \$30 per day. Pre-registration is essential. Register on 4373830 or any questions to Bevin Gibbs - rdm@northlandhockey.org.nz

Learn to March with the Whangarei Kilties Marching Team. Any age considered. Training sessions are held at the Onerahi Community Hall, Tuesdays 4-5pm, commencing July 2nd and Saturdays at the Onerahi Community Hall, commencing July 6th. All welcome. Fees are \$100 per season, and can be paid off at \$10 per week, or a 10% discount given if paid in one lump sum. Email us for a brochure with more details at desarae@clear.net.nz or phone or txt Vanessa on 021 1207235."

COFFEE GROUP - Thursday's 1pm at Ruatangata Playcentre. A laid back affair where you enjoy coffee and children can play. Relaxed atmosphere provided. Phone 433 5171.

Ruatangata Playcentre - small, rural and friendly centre with huge outside area. Our children love seeing new faces to play with so come and have a look. Tuesday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm. 1190 Pipiwai Rd. Ph: 433 5171

Marsden Bay Holiday Camp -July 14th – 19th, Activities include motorbikes, buggies, water slide, flying fox, pancake making, beach activities and much more. For more info contact Sheena Lamason on 094447456/0272133225 or info@marsdenbay.com

Farewell to RICK KIVELL

Former Principal of Matarau School

After a distinguished career in education Rick is retiring from teaching and his current position as Deputy Principal at Kamo Intermediate School.

Former students and parents, friends and colleagues are invited to share in a celebration of Ricks 45+ years in education on

Tuesday 9th JULY 2013

1.30pm

Kamo Intermediate School Hall

A school assembly at 1.30 will be followed by an afternoon tea and a chance to catch up.

Messages can be sent to jnicholson@kamoint.school.nz to be shared on the day.



When the Martin family were at the field days in Hamilton they took a picture into the Skellerup stand of Ella dressed up as a redband for our school kiwi icon day. They thought it was so awesome and posted her a bag of skellerup goodies.